JAN O 6 7004 WE RE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RE APPLICATION OF

ATTY DKT NO: 00137.00026

RALF BIRKELBACH ET AL.

GROUP ART UNIT: TBD

SERIAL NO.: 10/633,592

EXAMINER: TBD

FILED: AUGUST 5, 2003

FOR: SELF-TAPPING SCREW

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents MAIL STOP MISSING PARTS P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-captioned application as follows.